

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938

S E C R E T NAIROBI 8894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, KE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER ELIUD MAHIHU

1. IN MEETING ON AUGUST 19 WITH COASTAL PROVINCE COMMISSIONER  
MAHIHU, I RAISED FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. DISSOLUTION MOMBASA CITY COUNCIL: MAHIHU COMMENTED  
THAT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND AUTHORITY HAD DEVELOPED TO SUCH  
AN EXTENT THAT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL WAS IMPOSSIBLE.  
MAHIHU INDICATED HIS HOPE MOMBASA WOULD BE FIRST OF NATION-  
WIDE REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCILS ALONG CIVIL SERVICE LINE  
WHERE EMPLOYER AND DECISION-MAKER WOULD NOT BE THE SAME AS  
PRESENTLY THE CASE, AND AUTHORITY WOULD COME FROM NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: IF SUCH ACTION IS TAKEN, IT WOULD  
CLEARLY INDICATE FURTHER EFFORT BY KIKUYUS TO SPREAD THEIR  
INFLUENCE--AND CONTROL--THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.)

B. FIRING OF TANZANIANS BY KENYAN FIRMS: THIS SUBJECT  
RAISED, WITH CONCERN, BY AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES  
ON AUGUST 16 AND 17 AT MY PERIODIC MEETINGS WITH THEM  
AT RESIDENCE. CROWN CORK, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS RECEIVED  
ORAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOK TO FIRE TWO TANZANIAN SENIOR  
STAFF MEMBERS, BOTH WITH TEN YEARS EMPLOYMENT. CROWN  
CORK REP ASKED GOK WHETHER REQUEST WAS TO BECOME DIRECTIVE;  
HE WAS TOLD NO, BUT THAT HE SHOULD FOLLOW ORAL INSTRUCTION.

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WITHOUT NAMING COMPANY, I EXPRESSED NAIROBI BUSINESS

CONCERN OVER ISSUE. MAHIHU TOOK PRIDE IN INFORMING ME THAT HE (MAHIHU SHOULD BE CREDITED WITH HAVING TAKEN INITIATIVE TO GET TANZANIANS FIRED. THERE ARE 30,000 TANZANIANS AND 12,000 UGANDANS IN COAST PROVINCE, MAHIHU INFORMED ME. UNEMPLOYED SHOULD GO HOME; JUST AS GOT RETURNED KENYANS EMPLOYED IN TANZANIA TO KENYA, WITHOUT NOTICE. THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE COURTESY TO NOTIFY ME SO I COULD MEET THEM ON THE BORDER, MAHIHU DECLARED. REPLYING TO MY BOTTOM-LINE QUESTION: WHERE DOES THIS LEAD, MAHIHU DECLARED THAT MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, VICE PRESIDENT ARAP MOI, MAY WELL REQUIRE TANZANIANS WHO WISH TO WORK IN KENYA TO OBTAIN WORK PERMITS, AS IS PRESENTLY REQUIRED OF KENYANS IN TANZANIA.

C UGANDAN MILITARY SHIPMENTS IN MOMBASA: MAHIHU STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW IN MOMBASA (CITING AS EXAMPLE 100 TRUCKS) WILL NOT BE RELEASED FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO UGANDA. HOWEVER, HE NOTED, NEXT FLARE UP WITH UGANDA MAY WELL BE ON ARRIVAL IN MOMBASA OF 60 TONS OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT. KENYA WILL EITHER NOT ALLOW SHIP TO OFFLOAD OR WILL CERTAINLY NOT ALLOW ONWARD JOURNEY TO UGANDA. KENYA'S ACTION MAY WELL BE USED BY AMIN AS PROVOCATIVE EXCUSE FOR RETALIATORY ACTION BY HIM AGAINST KENYA.

D. VISIT BY KENYATTAS TO USN SHIP: PRIOR TO MEETING I HAD UNDERSTOOD MAHIHU MIGHT SUGGEST TO ME THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA VISIT USS CAPODANNO, FOLLOWING VISIT MADE PREVIOUS DAY BY HIS FOUR CHILDREN. HOWEVER, IT TURNED OUT MAHIHU INTERESTED IN MAMA NGINA KENYATTA VISITING SHIP. I SAID THAT WHILE I WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH VISIT, THAT GOK SHOULD CONSIDER REACTION OF SUCH A VISIT, WERE IT TO BECOME PUBLICIZED, TWO DAYS AFTER SRI LANKA DECLARATION RE I.O.Z.P. WE DECIDED TIMING WRONG, AND THAT SHIP VISIT SHOULD BE POSTPONED; PERHAPS OPPORTUNITY WOULD ARISE TO VISIT LARGER SHIP AT LATER DATE.  
MARSHALL

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